

Serial No.: 10/686,176
Office Action Date: 3/7/2005

Filed: 10/14/2003
Amendment Date: 4/6/2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action mailed 03/07/2005, Applicants present a preliminary amendment to the claims, specifically amending claim 12 and adding new claims 18 and 19. All other claims remain as originally filed. Applicants also present an amendment to paragraph 34 of the specification to insert application serial numbers available since the application filing date.

The subject Office Action alleges that the application contains claims directed to three distinct inventions corresponding, respectively, to claim groupings 1-7, 8-11 and 12-17.

Applicants have presented amended claim 12 and new claims 18 and 19. By virtue of these preliminary amendments and additions, Applicants believe that claim sets 1-7 and 12-19 are adequately linked to allow for search and examination together. Therefore, in view of the listing of claims in this paper, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the restriction requirement and consider search and examination of claims 1-7 and 12-19 in the present application.

If the Examiner agrees with Applicants' request set forth above, Applicants hereby provisionally elect claims 1-7 and 12-19. If, however, the Examiner does not agree with Applicants' request set forth above, Applicants hereby provisionally elect claims 12-19. Applicants retain the right to present any non-provisionally elected claims in a divisional application.

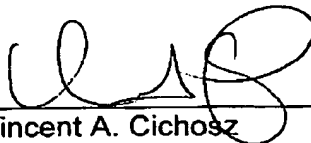
If the Examiner has any questions regarding the contents of the present response he may contact Applicants' attorney at the phone number appearing below.

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Respectfully submitted,



Vincent A. Cichosz
Registration No. 35,844
Telephone: (248) 676-2798

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